

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. VM7031422003  
Varian No. 03-010US

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel claims 36, 44, 61, 63, and 65, and amend claims 18, 19, 21, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 35, 40, and 43, as follows. A complete listing of the claims is provided below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;  
determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;  
collecting a third x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the third x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the composite image;  
wherein the third x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the first x-ray image.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing a image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adjusting comprises subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
8. (Previously Presented) A system for processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
means for collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;  
means for determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;  
means for collecting a third x-ray image without performing a weighted subtraction of the first x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the third x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
means for enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the composite image.
9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for determining a composite image comprises means for performing an image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for adjusting comprises means for subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
11. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:  
collecting a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image;  
determining a composite image based on the first and second x-ray images;  
collecting a third x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the third x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
enhancing a feature in the third x-ray image by adjusting the third x-ray image based on the composite image;  
wherein the third x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the first x-ray image.

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12. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
13. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first, second, and third x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the first and second x-ray images.
15. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.
17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the adjusting comprises subtracting the composite image from the third x-ray image.
18. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
collecting ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images;  
determining a composite image ~~based on the one~~ using at least two of the two or more x-ray images;  
collecting an input x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of one of the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image;  
wherein the input x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images.

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19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the collecting the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images comprises generating the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images in a sequence.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the input x-ray image contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the ~~one~~ at least two of the two or more x-ray images.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.
24. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the enhancing comprises subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.
25. (Currently Amended) A system for processing an image, comprising:  
means for collecting ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images;  
means for determining a composite image ~~based on the one~~ using at least two of the two or more x-ray images;  
means for collecting an input x-ray image without performing a weighted subtraction of the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images, wherein at least a portion of one of the ~~one~~ two or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
means for enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image.

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26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for determining a composite image comprises means for performing an image averaging on the ~~one~~ at least two of the two or more x-ray images.

27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for enhancing comprises means for subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:

collecting ~~one two~~ or more x-ray images;

determining a composite image ~~based on the one~~ using at least two of the two or more x-ray images;

collecting an input x-ray image, wherein at least a portion of one of the ~~one two~~ or more x-ray images and at least a portion of the input x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and

enhancing a feature of the input x-ray image based on the composite image;

wherein the input x-ray image is collected without performing a weighted subtraction of the ~~one two~~ or more x-ray images.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the collecting the ~~one two~~ or more images comprises generating the ~~one two~~ or more x-ray images in a sequence.

30. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the input x-ray image contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the determining a composite image comprises performing an image averaging on the ~~one~~ at least two of the two or more x-ray images.

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32. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the image averaging is performed using a boxcar averaging technique.
33. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the image averaging is performed based on a weighted average.
34. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the enhancing comprises subtracting the composite image from the input x-ray image.
35. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
obtaining a first x-ray image;  
obtaining a second x-ray image, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are obtained using x-ray radiation having a same energy level, and at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
determining a composite image based on at least a portion of the first and second x-ray images;  
wherein the first and second x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
36. (Canceled)
37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the first and second x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.
38. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the determining a composite image comprises subtracting at least a portion of the first x-ray image from at least a portion of the second x-ray image.
39. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising determining a value associated with a contrast of the composite image.

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40. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a x-ray image, comprising:  
means for obtaining a first x-ray image and a second x-ray image in a sequence;  
wherein the means for obtaining a second x-ray image, wherein the first and the second  
x-ray images are obtained using uses x-ray radiation having a same energy level to obtain the  
first and the second x-ray images, and at least a portion of the first x-ray image and at least a  
portion of the second x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an object; and  
means for determining a composite image based on at least a portion of the first x-ray  
image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image.
41. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein the means for determining a composite image  
comprises means for subtracting at least a portion of the first x-ray image from at least a portion  
of the second x-ray image.
42. (Original) The system of claim 40, further comprising means for determining a value  
associated with a contrast of the composite image.
43. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a set of stored instructions,  
the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising:  
obtaining a first x-ray image;  
obtaining a second x-ray image, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are  
obtained using x-ray radiation having a same energy level, and at least a portion of the first x-ray  
image and at least a portion of the second x-ray image comprise images of a same portion of an  
object; and  
determining a composite image based on at least a portion of the first and second x-ray  
images;  
wherein the first and second x-ray images are generated in a sequence.
44. (Canceled)

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45. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first and second x-ray images each contains an image of at least a portion of an animal body.

46. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the determining a composite image comprises subtracting at least a portion of the first x-ray image from at least a portion of the second x-ray image.

47. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the process further comprising determining a value associated with a contrast of the composite image.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature, which is a characteristic in the third x-ray image due to a movement of the portion of the object.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature, which is a characteristic in the third x-ray image due to a movement of the portion of the object.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the feature comprises a moving feature, which is a characteristic in the third x-ray image due to a movement of the portion of the object.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are generated using an imaging device that remains stationary between a first time at which the first x-ray image is generated and a second time at which the second x-ray image is generated.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the means for obtaining the first x-ray image and the means for obtaining the second x-ray image comprises an imaging device



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that remains stationary between a first time at which the first x-ray image is generated and a second time at which the second x-ray image is generated.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first and the second x-ray images are generated using an imaging device that remains stationary between a first time at which the first x-ray image is generated and a second time at which the second x-ray image is generated.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the feature in the third x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the first x-ray image and the second x-ray image using x-ray having a same energy level.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for enhancing the feature in the third x-ray image does not include a contrast media.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for generating the first and the second x-ray images using x-ray having a same energy level.

58. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the feature in the third x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

59. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the process further comprises generating the first x-ray image and the second x-ray image using x-ray having a same energy level.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the feature in the input x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

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61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for enhancing the feature in the input x-ray image does not include a contrast media.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the feature in the input x-ray image is enhanced without using a contrast media.

65. (Canceled)